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04/11/25

Federal Communications Commission
45 L St NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: GN 25-133 - IN RE: DELETE, DELETE, DELETE

Dear Secretary,

I am writing as a concerned ham to emphasize the importance of the Amateur Radio Service. The service stands as a communications of last resort, operated by professionals familiar with their trade. Local, regional, and federal agencies continue to see value in investing in the critical infrastructure and the hobby continues to grow with the youth maker and hacker community.

Right now the US is experiencing a RF workforce crisis. The STEM initiatives of the past decade have resulted in more technically inclined youth but have focused almost entirely on programming careers. Currently most radios (amateur or commercial) are imported. Ham Radio can kickstart someone's radio career and give them real experience with RF. It can be someone's literal license to experiment. If we're going to manufacture our own RF equipment, we need electrical engineers, and they need experimental spectrum.

Each amateur band is entirely unique in its transmission, reflection, and absorption properties. As bands open and close, it is important for operators to have a variety of frequencies to achieve the services goal of being communications of last resort. Under certain conditions only a handful of bands may be open at a time. The bands also allow students a variety of frequencies to use for their innovations and for experimentation.

I believe the symbol rate limits on the VHF and UHF bands are outdated in an era of TCXOs and SDRs. When there shouldn't be any doubt to how wide your transmission is. For some time, the US has been held back by these symbol limits. The FCC should revisit the idea of simple bandwidth limitations on data transmissions. The future of Amateur Radio is data.

Experimentation in amateur radio should be easy. For new modes a simple bulletin on technical details, enough to receive the transmission, should be enough. I also urge you to consider encryption. In a way, a new mode may be enough to obscure your transmission if you didn't provide its technical details. Following that line of thinking, there really shouldn't be anything wrong with encryption if keys were widely known. I don't believe encryption should be required for the average QSO, but that allowing for experimentation and familiarity may promote the development of cryptographic and cracking skills.

In conclusion, we must foster experimentation and the development of the RF workforce, we must promote Amateur Radio's mission of being communications of last resort, and we must embrace the future of data in Amateur Radio. There is a lot of good to be done in removing overbearing regulations. Please consider your decisions carefully and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Edward Wilson
KC3QAJ